

EcoDriving™ Practices

Subtle changes in driving habits can produce significant benefits, such as saving money at the gas pump and reducing CO₂ emissions.

Believe You Can Reduce Fuel Use and Emissions

Typically, practicing moderate levels of EcoDriving can reduce fuel use by an average of 15%.

2 Avoid Rapid Starts and Stops

Rapid acceleration and braking, often called "jack rabbit" starts and stops, use fuel and cost money at the gas pump.

3 Keep on Rolling in Traffic

Maintaining a constant speed in your commute increases fuel economy, because it takes much more energy to move a stopped vehicle than to keep a vehicle moving.

4 Ride the "Green Wave"

A steady speed often can help drivers avoid red lights and keep the car moving more efficiently.

5 Use Air Conditioning at Higher Speeds

When driving at slower speeds (less than 40 mph), such as driving in urban areas, open windows are better. At higher speeds (over 40 mph), open windows use more fuel than the air conditioner.

6 Maintain an Optimum Highway Speed for Good Mileage

Observing the speed limit and not exceeding 60 mph (where legally allowed) can improve mileage by 7-23%.

7 Use Cruise Control

According to a test conducted by Edmunds.com, cruise control can provide a 7% average fuel savings, compared to driving without the device operating.

8 Navigate to Reduce Carbon Dioxide Planning driving trips, even Saturday shopping, can

Planning driving trips, even Saturday shopping, can help reduce fuel use and CO₂ emissions.

9 Avoid Idling

Idling uses gas and because the car is going nowhere, it translates into 0 mpg.

10 Buy an Automated Pass for Toll Roads

By purchasing an "EZ Pass" for a toll road or bridge, a driver avoids stopping and starting the vehicle and idling in lines.

Use the Highest Gear Possible

By using overdrive gearing where possible, such as on the highway, your vehicle's engine speed goes down, saving fuel and engine wear while reducing CO₂ emissions.

12 Drive Your Vehicle to Warm It Up

Your vehicle will reach its optimum operating temperature much faster when you are driving, rather than idling.

13 Keep Your Cool

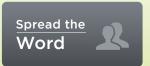
Always roll down the windows when getting into a hot car to blow out the hot air. Try to park in the shade. And consider investing in a heat reflector or window shades

14 Obey Your Check Engine Light

When the onboard diagnostics alert light comes on, there is the possibility that your emissions are increased and your fuel economy is going down.

Do more at www.EcoDrivingUSA.com





Communicate the benefits of EcoDriving in your area.

Download printable tips, posters and manuals as well as online tools such as banner ads and widgets.

Maintenance Practices

Today's automobile is a complex machine with more than 3,000 interactive parts. Regular maintenance can help your vehicle run longer, as well as reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

1 Read Your Owner's Manual

Typically your owner's manual will provide a recommended service schedule to keep your vehicle operating efficiently.

² Use the Recommended Motor Oil

According to the U.S. EPA, you can improve your fuel economy by 1-2% by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil.

3 Schedule Periodic Engine Tune-ups Typically, a tune up can improve gas mileage by an

average of 4%.

4 Replace Air Filters Regularly

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, replacing a clogged air filter can increase your mileage by 10%.

5 Check Your Tire Pressure Monthly

The Department of Energy estimates that 1.2 billion gallons of fuel were wasted in 2005 as a result of driving on under-inflated tires.

6 Check the Weather, then **Check Your Tires**

Tire pressure changes an average of 1 PSI (pounds per square inch) for every 10 degrees Fahrenheit change in air temperature.

7 Invest in a Tire Pressure Gauge

Tire pressure monitoring systems will indicate when your tires are under-inflated by 25%, but it is always advisable to check your tires with a tire pressure gauge before you see the warning light.

8 Reduce Aerodynamic Drag

Wind resistance can reduce mileage, so you can maximize your mileage by removing luggage racks, rooftop carriers, and ski racks when they are not needed.

9 Tighten Your Gas Cap

As much as 30 gallons of gasoline could be lost annually to evaporation when the fuel cap is not fully tightened.

10 Remove Excess Weight from Your Vehicle

An extra 100 pounds in the trunk typically reduces mileage by about 2%.

11 Maintain Your Air Conditioning System - Professionally

Insist on professional service with recovery and recycling so that refrigerant can be reused and not released to the atmosphere.

12 Consider Purchasing Fuel-Efficient Tires

Your tires can make a difference. "Lower rolling resistance" tires are now available, and these tires can improve mileage.

Source: www.fueleconomy.gov

Do more at www.EcoDrivingUSA.com



Test your EcoDriving skills in our virtual road test-choose your route and start driving. Just make sure you check your tire pressure and trunk cargo before you get started.



Every day, cities and states are doing their part to promote ecofriendly programs and practices. Visit the site and take action today.



















